

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01264 161335Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MED-02 /052 W
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R 161312Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7766
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1264

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: RUMOR REGARDING DENKTASH'S HEALTH

REF: ANKARA 3711

1. RE REFTEL RUMOR ON DENKTASH'S HEALTH, SUBJECT HAS BEEN MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN NICOSIA OVER LAST WEEK. WE HEARD THAT MANCHESTER GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT JOHN TORODE HAS BEEN SAYING THAT DENKTASH TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH TORODE. MAY 14 AGON CARRIED A REPORT THAT DENKTASH IS UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN LONDON FOR MEMORY LAPSES AND THAT HIS CONDITION IS SERIOUS. TFSC SPOKESMAN PROMPTLY DENIED THE ALLEGATION.

2. COMMENT. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY TFSC OFFICIALS THAT DENKTASH HAS SOME MINOR PROBLEM WITH HIS NECK AND SHOULDERS AND WOULD HAVE TREATMENT FOR IT IN LONDON. MAY 18 ZAMAN, PUBLISHED BY DENKTASH'S SON REPORTED THAT DENKTASH ANNOUNCED THAT HIS HEALTH IS FINE, HE ATTENDED A DINNER PREVIOUS DAY IN ECEVIT'S HONOR GIVEN BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, AND IS CONFIDENTIAL

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TINUING WITH VARIOUS CONTACTS. LAST TIME WE SAW DENKTASH, ON APRIL 10, HE APPEARED ROBUST AND HEALTHY. WE SUSPECT RUMORS IN ANKARA HAVE SAME ORIGIN AS RUMORS HERE. NEVERTHELESS DENKTASH HAS STAYED OVERLY LONG IN LONDON WITH VERY LITTLE PRESS REPORTING ON HIS ACTIVITIES THERE, WHICH COULD SUGGEST THAT HIS HEALTH PROBLEM MAY BE MORE THAN MINOR. WE WILL

DISCREETLY ATTEMPT TO ELICIT MORE INFORMATION. END
COMMENT.
STONE

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NNN

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